

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for her comments in the Patent Application. To place in condition for allowance, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite limitations of Claims 8, 9 and 13. Page 6 of the Office Action states Claim 13 contains allowable subject matter but depends upon rejected Claim 1, 8 and 9. Accordingly, Claims 8, 9 and 13 have been canceled.

To place in condition for allowance, independent Claim 15 has been amended to recite limitations of Claim 22. The Office Action states Claim 22 contains allowable subject matter but depends upon rejected Claim 15. Accordingly, Claim 22 has been canceled.

Claim 32 has been amended to recite the treatment chemistry is disposed along a peripheral region of the absorbent core and not a center of the absorbent core, as supported on page 34, lines 5-7, page 34, line 20 to page 35, lines 2, original Claim 7, FIGS. 5 and 8 (centrally), FIGS 6-7 (peripherally) and MPEP § 2173.05(i), Negative Limitations, for example.

Telephone Interview Summary

Applicants' attorney, John Poliak, thanks Examiner Anderson for her comments and courtesies extended in the telephone interview on 13 November 2007 in this Patent Application. The novelty rejection based on Hamilton and a proposed amendment was discussed.

Agreement was reached that the proposed amended Claims 1 and 15 incorporating allowable subject matter overcomes the rejection based on Hamilton. Regarding Claim 32, applicant reviewed the positive and negative support in the specification for the treatment chemistry disposed peripherally and not centrally, particularly in FIGS. 6-7. Applicants understand the proposed amendment likely overcomes the rejection based on Hamilton but the Examiner will conduct a more complete review when formally submitted.

No agreement regarding additional allowable subject matter was reached as the Examiner indicated an updated search may be necessary.

Claim Rejection Based on Hamilton

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 8-20, 23-26, 32-34, 36-42 and 44 based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamilton, U.S. Patent 6,562,192, is respectfully

traversed. Anticipation requires each and every element of the claims be present in the cited reference.

Page 3 of the Office Action lists Claim 13 as being rejected but does not provide a specific basis in the text for the rejection. Pages 2 and 6 of the current Office Action and the prior Office Action indicate Claim 13 is objected but otherwise contains allowable subject matter. Applicants proceed based on Claim 13 being Objected. Should the Examiner have a proper basis for rejection of Claim 13 then Applicants respectfully request a next Office Action be a non-final to allow a proper response.

Hamilton discloses absorbent articles with free flowing particles or fibrous nits. The Examiner cites Hamilton for allegedly disclosing chitosan as a water-soluble gelling agent.

Regarding amended independent Claim 1, Hamilton does not disclose the treatment chemistry is disposed within a one segment of a bicomponent fiber. Rather, Hamilton discloses the particles are placed in a pouch. (*See* FIG. 2).

Regarding amended independent Claim 15, Hamilton does not disclose the treatment chemistry is disposed within an interior of at least a portion of the fibers. Rather, Hamilton discloses the particles are placed in a pouch. (*See* FIG. 2).

Regarding amended independent Claim 32, Hamilton does not disclose the treatment chemistry is disposed along a peripheral region of said absorbent core and not a center of the absorbent core. Rather, Hamilton discloses the particles are placed in a pouch in the center of the absorbent article. (*See* FIGS. 1-8).

For at least the reasons discussed above, Hamilton does not disclose all the elements of Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, this claim rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Page 6 of the Office Action indicates Claims 27-29, 31, 46-48 and 50 contain allowable subject matter.

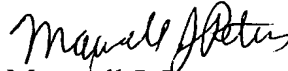
Page 6 of the Office Action also indicates Claims 13, 22 and 45 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to for depending upon rejected claims. As discussed above, limitations from Claim 13 and thereby Claims 8 and 9 respectively have been recited in Claim 1, obviating this claim objection. Limitations of Claim 22 have also been recited in Claim 15, obviating the claim objection. Claim 45 depends from amended

Claim 1 which contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this claim objection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the claims, as presented, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner detects any unresolved issues, then Applicants' attorney requests a telephone call from the Examiner, and a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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